

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AEC-11

AECE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 FEA-02 SCI-06

DRC-01 /157 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7024

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, IR

SUBJ: SHAH'S ALLEGED STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: A. PARIS 15305; B. STATE 135137 (NOTAL; C. TEHRAN 5166

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SUMMARY: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MININFO AND TOURISM

KIANPOUR ON JUNE 24 ISSUED STRONG DENIAL OF LES INFORMATIONS REPORT OF SHAH'S STATEMENT ON IRANIAN PLANS TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE ALSO LABELING AS FALSE REPORTED IMPERIAL CRITICISM OF INDIAN A-BOMB, KIANPOUR NOTED MONARCH HAD ACTUALLY SAID THAT IRAN WAS NOT THINKING OF ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT MAY HAVE TO REVISE THIS POLICY IF OTHER NATIONS DEVELOP THEM. GOI DENIAL, THOUGH PERHAPS INDICATING SLIGHT SHIFT IN HIM'S THINKING IN WAKE OF INDIAN EXPLOSION IS IN KEEPING WITH PAST IRANIAN DECLARATIONS OF INTENT NOT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPACITY. END SUMMARY.

1. IRANIAN GOVERNMENT SPOESMAN AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM GHOLAM REZA KIANPOUR JUNE 24 ISSUED STRONG OFFICIAL DENIAL OF SHAH'S COMMENTS IN FRENCH PUBLICATION LES INFORMATIONS (REPORTED REF A.) REGARDING POSSIBLE IRANIAN ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACCORDING KIANPOUR HIM ACTUALLY SAID IRAN IS NOT THINKING OF BUILDING ATOMIC WEAPONS BUT MY REVISE ITS POLICY IN THIS REGARD IF OTHER NON-NUCLEAR NATIONS DO.

2. KIANPOUR ALSO LABELED FALSE THE LES INFORMATIONS REPORT THAT MONARCH HAD IMPLIED INDIA HAD NEGLECTED WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE IN ORFER ATTAIN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.

3. IT IS UNCLEAR WHERE AND WHEN INTERVIEW ACTUALLY OCCURRED. OFFICIAL PARS NEWS AGENCY CLAIMS IT TOOK PLACE IN PARIS BUT IN VIEW OF JUNE 23 RELEASE OF INTERVIEW AND ARRIVAL OF IMPERIAL COUPLE IN FRANCE JUNE 24, THIS OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT.

4. FURTHER CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT SHAH ACTUALLY SAID HAS RESULTED FROM FACT THAT PARS INADVERTENTLY ISSUED TO REUTERS TEXT OF DENIAL WHICH OMITTED COMMENT REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN IRANIAN POLICY IF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION GOES UNCHECKED.

5. COMMENT: KIANPOUR DENIAL, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF COURT MINISTER ALAM (REF C), CLEARLY INDICATES THAT CURRENT IRANIAN POLICY IS NOT RPT NOT TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH PREVIOUS GOI PRONOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIONS, INCLUDING SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. IT MAY BE THAT IN INTERVIEW WITH LES INFORMATIONS SHAH WISHED TO SIGNAL HIS CONCERN ABOUT FURTHER PROLIFERATION
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AND INDICATE THAT IRAN COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY IF OTHER NATIONS LIKE ISRAEL OF EGYPT SHOULD GO NUCLEAR. HOWEVER, WE ACCEPT GOI DENIALS AS ACCURATELY REFLECTING SHAH'S CURRENT INTENTIONS, WHATEVER HE MAY HAVE SAID OFF THE CUFF TO FRENCH JOURNALISTS.
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